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The OBSERVER

By the students and for the students of CWU
Vol. 99 No. 7, Feb, 26 - March 4, 2015

Suspension of Consequences

Assault of Central staff member dismissed on basis of mental incompetency; student still allowed on campus

By Chace Davy, News Editor
and Jonathan Glover, Assistant Scene Editor

The first strike hit Lareta “Joy” Chrismer near her temple, cutting her face and sending her to the ground. Onlookers in Nicholson Pavilion’s field house said Bryan Yancy then kicked her repeatedly in the head while she was down.

Chrismer had just congratulated Yancy on an article written about him in The Observer. The story was about Yancy’s success in life while dealing with autism, and his bond with the football team. “I feared for my life when I came to on the floor and felt blows to the back of my head,” Chrismer wrote in her petition for an Order for Protection.

Days later, Chrismer would reflect on the incident. “I cannot just sit back and ignore the fact that he needs help,” Chrismer wrote in her Victim Impact Statement.

Yancy has autism, a disorder that affects 1 in 68 American citizens, according to a recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report. Autism ranges along a spectrum of mild to severe. Yancy falls under a more severe diagnosis of developmental autism. Studies from around the country have shown that people with autism have an increased tendency for displaying aggressive behaviors.

This incident brings into question the legal system’s ability to cope with society’s right to safety, versus an individual’s right to participate in society, regardless of whether they have a mental disorder.

“He’s no imminent threat to anybody,” James Denison, Yancy’s attorney, said minutes before Yancy’s assault charge was dismissed on Jan. 23.

Central has suspended Yancy for winter quarter, but still allows him to visit some parts of campus.

“This attack is not just about me. It is about the fact that Mr. Yancy has a history of attacks against other citizens and people of authority in his life, and that he is continually allowed to not be held responsible for those attacks,” Chrismer wrote in her victim statement. “From what I have witnessed, I do not believe that his parents/guardians are capable of getting him the appropriate help.”

Yancy has been at Central for eight years as a student, taking classes but not earning credit toward a degree. He served as a member of the Central football team’s coaching staff for seven years before “retiring” in 2014 due to the stresses of traveling, his father said.

Yancy is also beloved by many team members, and his end-of-the-season “Friendship Awards” have been highly coveted.

In her response to Chrismer’s victim statement, Yancy’s mother and caretaker, Cynthia Loveland, wrote that Yancy has been a model citizen. He has raised money for charity, donated food to the FISH Food Bank after it caught fire last November, and volunteered regularly at the West Seattle Food Bank from 2000-2004. He has also worked as a paper carrier for the Daily Record.

“Wherever he goes, he brings a smile to people’s faces,” Cynthia Loveland wrote. “I absolutely feel that Bryan is a productive member of society who has a purpose.”

This was not Yancy’s first assault on another person. According to a competency evaluation administered in July 2005 by Michael Comte, clinical social worker, Yancy has a history of violent attacks.

Despite these outbursts, Yancy has yet to face any serious legal consequences.

In 2005, Yancy was expelled from Ellensburg High School for attacking a vice principal and a member of the teaching staff. All charges were dropped due to a conclusion of incompetency, as they were for the most recent incident.

Chrismer decided not to press charges of her own. Although Yancy was not convicted of a crime, the state could have pursued RCW 10.77.088, which states that a person found not competent in a nonfelony charge should be placed in a secure mental health facility for a period no longer than 14 days.

“I cannot reasonably believe that any Act such as the Disabilities Educational Act or the Disability Discrimination Act were put in place to allow disabled people the ability to assault others and not be held responsible for their actions,” Chrismer’s victim statement reads.

Continued on p.8

Photo illustration by Derrick Clarit



Eric Cooper makes marijuana a modern-day family business

BY KYLER ROBERTS
Contributing Writer

Eric Cooper has worked hard all of his life and now runs a successful marijuana producer/processor in Wenatchee called Monkey Grass Farms (MGF).

The leap into marijuana

“It’s a family thing. I think that’s what got me into it because I knew the whole family could get into it and have a lot of fun, while also making some dollars,” Cooper said.

MGF has over 30 employees at the moment, all of which are close friends and family. He is also a local man; born and raised in Wenatchee, where he chose to keep his business.

The MGF Family

Everyone at MGF is either a close relative or friend with their own responsibilities in the company. His wife is the processing director, and his daughters are the sales and marketing direc-

tors. His daughters also handle most of the social media aspects of the business, too. Cooper says that posting on their Facebook page about a certain strain of their product will lead to more purchases of that strain at the retail stores they work with.

“Social media, it is what it is...You don’t do business without it anymore,” Cooper said.

Ryan Cooper, Eric Cooper’s son, runs The Happy Crop Shoppe in Wenatchee, and he says that it’s convenient having a lot of local product coming in from MGF.

“It’s great, I definitely enjoy being able to buy weed from my dad and sell it in my store; there’s not a lot of people that are able to do that,” Ryan Cooper said.

Impacting the Industry

The MGF brand is becoming well known across the state, be-

cause Eric Cooper and his family have done a great marketing job using social media and other advertisements. This is how Eric Cooper keeps MGF unique from the other producer/processors in the state.

“We have a really good brand out there... We are well liked by our retailers and our customers. What’s making us different is

having quality product in quality packaging,” Eric Cooper said.

Eric Cooper says that he approaches this as a food-agriculture

business. “It is like growing hops for beer, you know, it is an agriculture business and we treat it as such,” Eric Cooper said.

MGF was designated the largest producer-processor in the state last year. It made over a million dollars in its first six months of operation. It is safe to say that Eric Cooper’s business tactics are working.

In addition to his impact on the marijuana industry, he has had an impact on the state’s unemployment by hiring about 30 employees to work at MGF.

Eric Cooper says that because MGF is in a professional harvest year round, 150 plants are harvested every week, which produces about 30-32 pounds of sellable dry bud. This allows orders to be ready to ship to the retailers who ordered them every Thursday or Friday.

Business with Cooper

Eric Cooper and the rest of MGF are respected by all of those who do business with them. Ryan Cooper is understandably one of MGF’s biggest retail customers, but it isn’t just because of the paternal relationship.

Ryan Cooper understands his father’s expertise in business.

“Very savvy, very industry-knowledgeable and able to accomplish a lot on starter companies,” Ryan said, when asked about his father as a businessman. “[He is also] outgoing and driven.”

Another one of MGF’s fre-

quent buyers is a retail shop in Vancouver, Wash. that goes by New Vansterdam. New Vansterdam’s manager, Shon Harris, says that he has had a very positive business relationship with Eric Cooper and the rest of MGF.

“Monkey Grass Farms is extremely receptive to the desires of their community and that’s very important when it comes to any business, especially a large grower,” Harris said.

Harris also praises how Eric Cooper and MGF make changes to their product when a customer has a problem.

“Monkey Grass has a vision for this industry and we appreciate the work they are doing,” Harris said. “You have growers and you have business partners ...we’re happy to see a company like Monkey Grass in this industry.”

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Sexual assault on the decline

Policies help lead to the statewide decline of assault charges

BY SIMONE CORBETT
Staff Reporter

Since July 1, 2014, three cases of sexual harassment in the workplace have been reported at Central. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington’s total sexual harassment charges decreased by 9.81 percent in 2014.

This is promising news for Washington, given that the number of charges typically rise each year.

“For several years the rates of sexual harassment charges have increased,” Staci Sleigh-Layman, director-at-large of human resources, said. “The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s purpose is to increase awareness, therefore more reports increasingly come.”

Sleigh-Layman said she has been conducting sexual harassment investigations at Central for 25 years. If student employees or Central faculty/staff members ever feel the need to file a complaint in regard to sexual harassment or discrimination in the workplace, Sleigh-Layman or Gail Farmer, Central’s manager of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, should be the first primary contact.

Treating People with Dignity and Respect, the employee training program that Farmer conducts, aims to educate those who are unaware of the various sexual harassment laws and where to draw the line.

“Our anti-discrimination policies support federal and state laws,” Farmer said. “There’s a federal law called Title Seven that says you can’t discriminate in employment against anyone based on any of their protected statuses such as sex, race, religion, etc.”

Title Nine is an additional federal law that is similar to Title Seven, except that it specifically relates to students. According to Farmer, students’ federal Title Nine rights are violated if they are discriminated against due to their gender.

“Sexual harassment is considered a form of sex discrimination,” Farmer said. “If a student is discriminated against, they may complain against their Title Seven and Title Nine rights. Once you file a complaint you cannot be retaliated against.”

Farmer explained retaliation means that no action can be taken after a complaint is filed. Therefore, an individual’s job cannot be taken away or made more difficult after filing a complaint.

Sleigh-Layman said that people neglect to file complaints

| | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Receipts | 7,944 | 7,809 | 7,571 | 7,256 | 6,862 |
| % of Charges Filed By Males | 16.2% | 16.1% | 17.8% | 17.6% | 17.5% |
| Resolutions | 8,959 | 9,195 | 8,924 | 7,758 | 7,037 |
| Resolutions By Type | | | | | |
| Settlements | 995 | 1,039 | 977 | 879 | 786 |
| | 11.1% | 11.3% | 10.9% | 11.3% | 11.2% |
| Withdrawals w/Benefits | 548 | 523 | 537 | 518 | 526 |
| | 6.1% | 5.7% | 6.0% | 6.7% | 7.5% |
| Administrative Closures | 2,086 | 1,962 | 1,892 | 1,763 | 1,637 |
| | 23.3% | 21.3% | 21.2% | 22.7% | 23.3% |
| No Reasonable Cause | 4,551 | 4,975 | 4,842 | 4,066 | 3,662 |
| | 50.8% | 54.1% | 54.3% | 52.4% | 52.0% |
| Reasonable Cause | 779 | 696 | 676 | 532 | 426 |
| | 8.7% | 7.6% | 7.6% | 6.9% | 6.1% |
| Successful Conciliations | 242 | 238 | 243 | 212 | 152 |
| | 2.7% | 2.6% | 2.7% | 2.7% | 2.2% |
| Unsuccessful Conciliations | 537 | 458 | 433 | 320 | 274 |
| | 6.0% | 5.0% | 4.9% | 4.1% | 3.9% |
| Merit Resolutions | 2,322 | 2,258 | 2,190 | 1,929 | 1,738 |
| | 25.9% | 24.6% | 24.5% | 24.9% | 24.7% |
| Monetary Benefits (Millions)* | \$41.2 | \$45.1 | \$43.0 | \$44.6 | \$35.0 |

COURTESY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

when they should because they often don’t trust their own observations. She emphasized the importance of speaking up about being uncomfortable at work.

“I would first support the student in listening to their complaint,” Sleigh-Layman said about the process of filing a complaint. “I would encourage everyone to go to a trusted adult or employee that they can confide in.”

Many struggle with knowing where to draw the line in terms of sexual harassment, especially in a very comfortable work environment.

“Sexual harassment is physical, verbal or written behavior,” Farmer said.

An individual must be able to explain in detail the inappropriate behavior in order for a true complaint to be filed. Farmer said that for certain behavior to be considered sexual harassment, it must meet a legal threshold—it must be persistent, pervasive, severe, unwelcome or objectively offensive.

“The behavior must have a significant impact on your ability to do your job; there has to be an employment impact,” Farmer said.

Farmer said that people who receive complaints often have no

idea their words or actions were offensive. Farmer emphasized

that employees must understand “intention is nothing, impact is everything.”

Farmer said it’s important for students and employees to remember that while they can have fun while working, they still have to remain appropriate.

“There is a time and a place to use humor, but it’s got to be appropriate,” Farmer said. “There are things you can say when you’re out with your friends that you shouldn’t say in the workplace.”

Every Central employee, including student employees, are

required to take an anti-harassment and discrimination workplace compliance training upon being hired. This training must be completed every three years. Kurtis Kelly, sophomore psychology major, said that he found this training to be quite effective.

“It was about dressing appropriately for the workplace and it talked about places you can go to report if you felt like something inappropriate was happening at work,” Kelly said. “It told students that there are resources for them if they do ever feel uncomfortable at work.”

Kelly feels that a quarterly follow-up or review of the information would be helpful for students because it’s easy to forget this information after a while.

Farmer said that sexual harassment occurs because of a misunderstanding of power differentials, a misunderstanding of boundaries and a lack of respect.

“The behavior must have a significant impact on your ability to do your job; there has to be an employment impact.”

-Gail Farmer
Manager, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

“I would encourage everyone to go to a trusted adult or employee that they can confide in.”

-Staci Sleigh-Layman
Director-at-large, Human Resources

New clock-in system gets mixed reviews from faculty, staff

BY BRADLY SMITH
Staff Reporter

Earlier this month Central implemented a new clock-in system for faculty and staff. All the departments made the switch from the older, more traditional way of clocking in, to a new web-based system.

Employees of Central now clock in and out online. Some employees previously used a punch card to clock in and out when they came to and from work.

Other departments had a system where employees would manually write down and keep track of their hours for two weeks at a time.

These older systems were “becoming out of date, and Central is finally catching up with the technology by using this new system,” Grey Cavitt, administrative assistant for Central dining services, said.

Cavitt, who used to work for payroll, said that the older systems were much more time-

consuming and there was always a huge struggle at the beginning of each quarter and pay period.

Cavitt said that they have now put new computers in the kitchen, where the employees can access the internet to clock in and out.

Though it might be a longer process in the beginning for students, the system update “will provide more exact work hours and also lighten the work load for supervisors on payroll,” Cavitt said.

Dining services is the leading employer on campus. Cavitt said that the more students that work for the department, the more issues there will be.

The SURC is the second largest employer on campus. Dania Cochran, assistant director for the Recreation Center, expressed some concerns with the new system but thinks that it will have more benefits than downsides in the end.

“Students forgetting to log out and having to clock in and having to clock in twice is an

issue right now,” Cochran said.

However, Cochran explained that, like with any new system, there will be a few hiccups along the way.

Cochran thinks that it is more convenient for students to be able to clock in using their smart phones and the computer kiosks that have been installed in the SURC.

“It will be a huge benefit for the department secretaries,” Cochran said. “They no longer have to physically count up time sheets and track students down who made mistakes.”

This new system will also prepare students for the “real world.” They are gaining hands on experience and learning to become more responsible, according to Cochran.

“I’m sure that there will be new improvements and additions along the way,” Cochran said. “As of right now students schedules are not posted online, however we might see this in the future.”

The university has set up online tutorials for students to view.

It is too early to see whether or not it will truly be a better way for students to clock their hours.

“February 25 [pay day] will be the day that we find out how well it is working,” Cavitt said.

“Students forgetting to log out and having to clock in twice is an issue right now.”

-Dania Cochran
Universtiy recreation asst. director



LAURA HISLER
Junior, Clinical Physiology

“I like it because it is convenient, like my last job. It’s better than the punch card, and I haven’t had any problems with it.”



IAN SCHLAFFMAN
Junior, French and Business

“It’s fine. Not too different and simple. I haven’t had any problems with it.”



JORDAN SEGURA-MITCHELL
Junior, Psychology,
Law and Justice

“It’s kind of a hassle. The fact that they round times doesn’t seem very fair.”



JOSH ANDRYCHUK
Senior, Finance and Economics

“I like it because...sometimes the bosses forget to log your hours in with the punch cards.”

COMPILED BY MARTHA CARDENAS

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Central Washington University
Department of Communication

Eburg D gets better

BY AARON KUNKLER
Staff Reporter

Construction began Feb. 9 on the bridge spanning the canal on North D Street.

According to Josh Mattson, civil engineer with the city of Ellensburg, the bridge is projected to be finished by April 1, and the road may be opened by May 1.

“It just depends on the weather,” Mattson said.

Weather effects the rate at which the cement and asphalt can be poured.

Construction of a new bridge was prompted by the deterioration of the old bridge, particularly the girders on the eastern side.

Students may have noticed that the eastern side of the bridge was sectioned off, and traffic was directed toward the western edge of the bridge.

The city of Ellensburg received a federal bridge grant which is being used to fund construction of a new bridge.

Belsaas and Smith Construction won the contract with a bid for around \$441,000 for the bridge, and \$478,309 for the to-

tal bid. Mattson said this was covered entirely by the federal grant.

Other projects which Belsaas and Smith have undertaken are Grant County Bridge No. 244 and 1,000 Steps to Suncadia.

A spokesperson for Belsaas and Smith said that a bridge like this is relatively easy to build and presents no unique challenges during construction. They are premade off-site and shipped and assembled on-site.

Asphalt is usually not available in the Ellensburg area until around the May 1 deadline, but due to the mild winter, asphalt manufacturing will likely resume in late April, allowing Belsaas and Smith to likely meet its deadline.

An additional construction project currently undertaken by the city of Ellensburg is building a wellhouse on Airport Road for a recently developed well.

While D Street being sectioned off may be an inconvenience, the city has set up alternative routes for commuters to utilize.

The detour takes drivers down 18th and Walnut Street.



XANDER DECCIO/OBSERVER

BREAKING GROUND The construction of a new bridge on North D Street has created detours.



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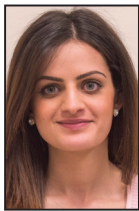
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The terror of Islamaphobia



BY SHAIMA SHAMDEEN/STAFF REPORTER

Craig Stephen Hicks shot three Muslim college students in their home, execution style in Chapel Hill, N.C. instilling fear amongst Muslim-Americans across this country.

So do I get to call Hicks a terrorist?

The victims, Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, his wife, Yusor Muhammed, 21, and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19 represent many other Muslim-Americans like myself. They represent our lifestyle, identity and faith. They embodied the dream that many young Muslim-Americans had after 9/11; to excel in academics, improve the community and be the sensible Muslim that we wish the media could see. The dream came with the

hope that if we did just that, then Americans would see beyond Al-Qaeda and ISIS and realize that we too condemn such violence.

But then a tragedy like this happens and the media dismisses the killer as a man obsessed with parking. They refuse to call it a hate crime. If they did, they'd have to name themselves as the root cause for having influenced such Islamaphobia. They refuse to call Hicks a terrorist because, well, it seems such extremism only applies when the killer is Muslim. The media refuses to dehumanize Hicks and call him exactly what he is: Atheist Terrorist.

Imagine how different the media coverage would've been if the situation were reversed and a Muslim man had shot three non-Muslim students. Nobody would have cared if it were over a park-

ing dispute. The media would rush to dig through the killer's history, background, family, and anything else that could connect the Muslim to a terrorist organization. His religion would have been brought to the forefront of every single debate about the incident. World leaders would rally together in support of the victims, just as they did for the victims of Charlie Hebdo.

And once again, I, as well as other Muslim-Americans, would be left having to defend our faith and having to explain to people how Muslims have no agenda to bringing harm. But still, the media will portray Islam as something violent.

But that isn't even the most frustrating part. The Chapel Hill shooting happened to real people living peaceful lives with bright

“Every time a tragedy happens, followers of Islam pray, ‘please don’t let it be a Muslim,’ because we are sick and tired of having to defend ourselves.”

futures whose work focused on bringing excellence to their community. In this case, the news media calls this triple-murder a parking dispute, and a killer who has the courtesy of being called a “troublemaker” instead of a “terrorist.”

Why does the media have a hard time acknowledging that the motive behind this murder was anything other than pure hatred?

It makes me wonder if Muslims will ever be accepted as Americans. The more the media portrays a community as outsiders, the more they risk dehumanizing them. Three young lives are gone and news outlets want to tell educated Americans it was due to a dispute over a parking spot. Is the war on terror just a big parking dispute? This is an epidemic called ignorance and hate. People must educate themselves on stereotypes and discrimination in order to recognize the value of human lives and learn to get rid of the link between Islam and terrorism.

There is no extreme violent

ideology within Islam. Individual criminals have perverted a religion of peace by calling themselves Muslim and misquoting the Holy Quran when in fact the religion they practice and preach is far from Islamic. Muslim faith has been hijacked not only by extremists, but also by the media who continues to propagate hate and untrue stereotypes.

Deah was an active member of United Muslim Relief's (UMR) dental relief team, taking part in a dental relief mission to Palestine that treated children with special needs. Razan was an officer for UMR triangle where she organized monthly feedings for the homeless in downtown Raleigh, N.C. Razan's father, Dr. Mohammed Abu-Salha, who has a psychiatry practice in Clayton, N.C. said their death was, “execution style...a bullet in every head.”

Every time a tragedy happens, followers of Islam pray, “Please don't let it be a Muslim,” because we are sick and tired of having to defend ourselves. Now tell me, who is the real terrorist?

Be nice: A plea from a CWU Call Center employee



BY MEREDITH CARLSEN/COPY EDITOR

Asking for money might be one the hardest things to do. It takes courage and thick skin to call Central alumni, parents and friends to ask them to donate financially to the university.

Up until a month ago, I was guilty of being short and rude in response to what seemed like an obnoxious amount of telemarketer phone calls. Then I got hired at the Alumni Call Center as a student employee. After my first phone call on the job asking for donations from an alum and being hung up on, I will NEVER again talk to strangers on the phone without being courteous.

What is absolutely mindboggling to me is that friends of Central can be so unwilling to share their Central experience, let alone give. It is very understandable that resources are stretched and that money is limited. It is another thing to treat a student calling on behalf of Central

without an ounce of kindness in their tone.

Even as merely a rookie in the University Call Center, I have been hung up on too many times to count. I've been hit with every snarky comment in the book, “How did you get this number to harass me,” “Don't ever call me again,” “Don't you think that I am doing my part by already paying tuition?”

“I don't believe that these people would treat me the same way if they had to talk face to face. There are a million ways of politely declining giving money, without attacking me or my university.”

I've slowly learned to not take the responses personally. I've found that the key to salvaging my own sanity is to kill those negative Nelly's with kindness. I'm also extremely grateful

to all of the gracious alumni, parents and friends who are nothing but excited to share that their experience with Central has been enjoyable; even if they apologetically decline to donate financially.

It grinds my gears that some people have lost touch with any sense of decency. Something about having a conversation over the phone must make it easier for them to raise their voice and speak down to someone. Weren't they a working student once too? Don't they have kids of their own? I don't believe that these people would treat me the same

way if they had to talk face to face. There are a million ways to politely decline giving, without attacking me or my university.

When the Alumni Call Center calls out to ask for donations, they are raising money on behalf of students. The money goes directly towards student scholarship funds, various university departments, financial aid emergencies and grants. Central is striving to accomplish big things by helping students alleviate some of the financial stresses that college puts on us and our families.

When nine out of ten Central students are receiving some level of financial aid, I would bet money on the assumption that the person I am reaching out to most likely received some help along the way, as well. Consequently, it blows my mind as to why people could so often be disgusted that we are asking them to give back.

With that said, I understand that we can't all give back financially. They and I both are going to be paying off student loans for a long time. What's not ok is slamming me, or Central. All I am asking is for phone call recipients to put themselves in my shoes for a second. I am just a student employee asking them to consider investing in the school that either they attended, or their children currently attend. Remember the lesson we all learned when we were younger? If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

My newfound life on handi-campus



BY JESSI HAMMOND/COPY EDITOR

I had a little too much fun on Super Bowl Sunday and broke my foot. I thought nothing of it at first; “I have crutches for a few weeks, this can't be too terrible.”

I was so wrong. As of right now I have been in a brace and crutches for three weeks. The hardest part about having anything broken is the inconvenience. Central has never seemed so big until it takes you 20 minutes to hobble to class.

Let me quickly walk you through my daily life the past week...I wake up and have to stumble down the stairs on my butt, I get ready and crutch out the door. Now, I have to rely on rides from friends, because screw walking to class with a broken foot. After my class at Shaw-Smyser, I have 10 minutes to walk to the second floor of the Science Building. It usually takes me around 20 minutes and by that time I'm exhausted, my foot hurts and my professor is mad because I am late yet again. I go home, climb up the stairs on my knees, prop my foot up and be lazy for the rest of the day. I'm going crazy.

Even though the broken foot is awful, I've been surprised at how helpful people have been and at how disability-accessible

buildings on campus are. All of my classes are on the second or third floor of the building. I was dreading the climb until I realized that there are elevators in every building (except for the basetties). Not only does every building have elevators but they have automatic front entrance doors. So instead of wobbling up stairs and trying to wiggle through doors with crutches, the campus has made it easy on me by being up to date with handicapped accessibility.

I took it upon myself to put Central to the test. I contacted Disabilities Services to see exactly what the office does to help the disabled students on campus. Disability Services (DS) is there to make the lives easier for disabled students. DS helps with academic accommodations. I found that on the DS website there was a lot of helpful information for students with all different kinds of disabilities; there is even a disabled parking request form if you have a parking pass. Hallelujah.

Not only is the campus itself equipped, but students are eager to help. Not five minutes goes by when I'm walking through campus when I don't hear “Hey, do you need help?” or a “would you like help walking to class?” People are eager to open doors and help me carry things. I'm thankful for the outpouring of consideration for just a little broken foot.

This campus and the students on it have made me even more proud to be a Wildcat.

'Burg earns 10 nominations

BY BRITTANY ALLEN
Staff Reporter

With one award from College Broadcasters Inc. for Best Podcast in hand, 88.1 the 'Burg is now in the running for 10 separate awards at the national level from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS).

On March 6-8, four of the 'Burg DJs, accompanied by Program Director Nikki Marra, will fly to New York City for the 75th annual international conference where the winners of the awards will be announced.

Marra, a former instructor of broadcast journalism on the East Coast and experienced radio talent, sees these nominations as a statement about the station as a whole.

"The [presentation] of these awards is more of a fact that we are becoming a premiere, elite radio program in this country," Marra said. "We're keeping up to caliber with bigger schools, with bigger radio programs, with bigger communications programs that are out there. And no one can tell us any different."

Eight of the 10 nominations the 'Burg received are divided between five students and one member of the 'Burg's professional staff, while the other two are for the station as a whole.

Taylor Shaindlin, junior broadcast journalism major, is up for Best News Feature Story and Best Campus News Coverage. She shares the nomination for Best Promo Series with her "Wake Up Call" co-host, Nick Oliver, a junior who intends to major in broadcast journalism.

Both Oliver and Shaindlin have been working at the 'Burg for three years and have recently risen in the ranks at the station.

Shaindlin is now News and Public Affairs Director and Oliver holds the station's highest student position of Assistant Program Director.

Shaindlin's favorite part of being at the 'Burg has been a contribution she and Oliver made themselves.

"We, as a team, brought the morning show to the 'Burg because there was none," Shaindlin said. "No one would dream of having a show at 6 a.m. twice a week, but really in radio that's the dream spot."

For Shaindlin, the idea of being "the first thing you hear in the morning" is her favorite experience as a DJ.

Oliver's experience at the 'Burg has really improved with new management.

"In the past 18 months, I've essentially gone from virtually the lowest man on the totem pole to assistant program director, which is the highest a student can be in the station," Oliver said. "For me especially, as a person, I've grown a lot in this building."



PHOTOS BY TAYLER SHAINDLIN/OBSERVER

BEHIND THE MIC Members of 88.1 the 'Burg's team are heading to New York for the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System conference.

The 'Burg nominees are more excited about the educational aspects of the conference, than about the awards ceremony itself.

Tim Mitchell, junior professional and creative writing major, is looking forward to learning.

"Our goal going to this conference is not to take home the trophies," Mitchell said. "We want to bring back more skill sets and ideas to make this place better, to give back to the community."

Mitchell is nominated for Best Show Promo, which he created with former Central student Mikah Washburn, and for Best Podcast, for the CBI award-winning podcast: "The 'Burg Spotlight."

Timo Nakhisa, junior computer science major, is anticipating good things from the panels presented at the conference.

Nakhisa has been nominated for Best Specialty Show, for his Sunday afternoon show: "Reggae Lovers," and for Best Celebrity Interview, for his interview with Ziggy Marley.

In his three years at the 'Burg, Nakhisa has learned a lot.

"It has helped me understand different worlds and how much music matters to so many people at different levels, to the point that it makes me respect anybody who has a passion for music," Nakhisa said.

This passion seems to be present throughout the entire station. Travis Box, the 'Burg general manager, is no exception. In under two years at the 'Burg, Box has seen growth in not only the quality of production, but in the station as a team.

"One of the things we work under is that we're "Burg first,"



that our titles and our specialties are second," Box said. "The newest trainee in the program is no different than me or Nikki, because we're all 'Burg first. And it works."

Box also sees these nominations as a real confidence boost for the students at the 'Burg.

"It was so important to see them believe in themselves," Box said. "That's why, at this level, I think competing for awards is so important. Because it shows them that they are as good as anybody else in the country."

Box and Sam James, junior aviation major, created the nominated PSA, "Let it Grow."

As a station, 88.1 the 'Burg has been nominated for Best Station Contest/Promotional Event for their "ResiDance Evil" event and also for Best College Radio

'Burg Nominations

88.1 The 'Burg has 10 nominations from the 2015 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Golden Mic Awards.

Best News Feature Story: Taylor Shaindlin for Sept. 11 Special Segment

Best Campus News: Taylor Shaindlin

Best Public Service Announcement: Sam James & Travis Box for "Let It Grow"

Best Promo Series: Taylor Shaindlin & Nick Oliver

Best Show Promo: Tim Mitchell & Mikah Washburn

Best Specialty Show: Timo Nakhisa for Reggae Lovers

Best Celebrity/Artists Interview: Timo Nakhisa for interview of Ziggy Marley

Best Station Contest/Promotional Event: ResiDance Evil

Best Podcast: The 'Burg Spotlight by Tim Mitchell

Best College Radio Station (with more than 10,000 students enrolled): 88.1 The 'Burg

Full Disclosure

Both **Taylor Shaindlin** and **Nick Oliver** are staff reporters on The Observer.

“One of the things we work under is that we’re “Burg first,” that our titles and specialties are second.”

-Travis Box
88.1 The 'Burg general manager

Volatile history comes t

Continued from p.1

Newspaper profile leads to violent reaction

Conditioning class started in the field house in Nicholson Pavilion at 10 a.m. on Nov. 13, 2014, like any other day.

“Most of us were gathered along the wall and a few people were closer to the main entry of the gym, including [Yancy] and his caretaker Joe,” Caitlin Sloane wrote in her witness report.

Bryan Yancy “was in a great mood and we were joking around; the normal start to our day,” Josef (Joe) Kistler, Yancy’s caretaker of four years, said in his voluntary witness statement.

Joy Chrismer, a 60-year old equipment manager working in Nicholson, walked up to Yancy, according to witnesses.

“I was giving [Yancy] a compliment on the write-up in the school paper, he then flipped me off,” Chrismer’s statement read.

Jared Larson witnessed Yancy’s sudden change of mood.

“The look on [Yancy’s] face then changed and he looked very angry. [Yancy] then reached back and punched Joy in the face, knocking off her glasses, cutting her cheek, and sending her to the floor instantly,” Larson wrote in an email to David Paul, graduate assistant and track and field coach.

Chrismer was knocked unconscious by the blow, according to her statement taken after the attack.

Yancy “[blind-sided] me, knocked me down. That’s all I remember. This happened so quick,” Chrismer wrote in a po-

lice report after regaining consciousness that day.

Kistler said in his voluntary witness statement, taken right after the incident, that he had positioned himself near Yancy in an anticipatory stance.

Yancy “had recently developed anxiety around Joy for reasons that I cannot understand or [get] him to verbalize to me,” Kistler wrote. “Bryan saw her coming and turned his back to her. I made sure he was within my arm’s reach as she neared.”

Kistler’s description of the incident differs from that of the other witnesses.

“He became aggressive and struck out at Joy, hitting her in the face,” Kistler wrote. “She dropped as I put him [on] the ground as well (at the time of the incident Bryan was within my arm’s reach and Joy was just out of my reach).”

Kistler then took Yancy out of the area while Nicholson Pavilion staff attended to Chrismer.

Central student Caitlin Sloane was waiting for her conditioning class to start when she saw the altercation.

“Within a second, she was on the ground,” Sloane wrote in her witness statement. “It all happened very fast but I saw [Yancy] punch her to the ground. Joe was not directly near him when it happened.”

“She was on the ground and [Yancy] began kicking her in the head and chest profusely before Joe intervened and pulled [Yan-

cy] off. [Yancy] showed extreme strength and fought through Joe’s restraints, going at Joy again. Finally Joe got [Yancy] to listen,” Sloane wrote.

Kistler’s report makes no mention of Yancy kicking Chrismer in the head while she lay on the ground.

Mackenzie Burvee, Chrismer’s niece, was working in Nicholson when she heard Kistler yelling at Yancy to “drop and give him 10.”

“I turned to look and I saw Joy Chrismer lying on the field house floor. I ran to her side. She looked terrified and was crying. Blood was running down the side of her face and down her right hand; she was holding the back of her head with her left hand, and was sitting up leaning on her right elbow,” Burvee wrote in her witness statement.

Burvee’s first reaction was to call her dad, Matt Burvee, who works across the street in the Hogue Technology Building. Matt Burvee, upon arriving at the scene, called 9-1-1.

Greg Margheim, university police officer, was the first law enforcement officer to arrive.

“I walked over to the field house area where [Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue] was completing their assessment on Chrismer,” Margheim wrote in his incident report. “Chrismer appeared to have trouble keeping her balance and KVFR advised she was going to go to [Kittitas Valley Hospital] to be assessed for a concus-

sion.”

After Chrismer refused transportation via ambulance, Matt Burvee elected to drive her to KVH. Margheim then made contact with Yancy.

“He said he was waiting for class to start, then ‘Joy’ came over to him so he ‘took Joy down,’ ” Margheim reported. “Yancy’s arms were crossed and his head was down while he explained this.”

Margheim cited Yancy with assault in the fourth degree and informed Yancy’s adoptive mother, Cynthia Loveland, who had arrived on scene, about the mandatory court date.

“Loveland took custody of Yancy and they left the area,” Margheim reported.

Later that evening, The Observer received an email from Sammy Henderson, director of athletic communications.

“BTW, the story on [Yancy] caused him to assault one of our janitors today,” the email reads. “Not that it was your fault, but people started telling him how good the story was and it triggered something and he hurt someone pretty bad. Crazy isn’t it? I think he is going to get banned from the school or something like that.”

After a concerned reply from The Observer was sent, Henderson responded:

“She will be fine. Was knocked unconscious for a bit but should be back Monday.”

1994
Yancy is adopted by Dale and Cynthia Loveland

Among a group of 1,380 children with ASD

Researchers found that 56 percent were engaging in aggressive behaviors toward caregivers.

32 percent engaged in these behaviors toward non-caregivers.

68 percent of the children had previously behaved aggressively toward caregivers

49 percent had behaved aggressively towards non-caregivers.

SOURCE: INTERACTIVE AUTISM NETWORK

2006
Yancy is enrolled at Central Washington University

Victim struggles with normal activities

In the hospital last November after the incident, Lareta “Joy” Chrismer was treated for her wounds, which have left scarring on her face. When she arrived home, Officer Margheim took pictures of her wounds and collected her voluntary incident statement.

Chrismer has been dealing with health issues ever since.

“I continue to have night terrors that cause me to wake up scared throughout the night,” Chrismer wrote in the victim statement. “On average, I am only able to get about [four] hours of sleep each night.”

Chrismer has since returned to work at Nicholson, but she reports she can’t physically complete her regular routine to the same degree as she could before the attack.

“I am not able to do my job

fully, be active, play with my grandchildren or enjoy the things that I have routinely done for years,” she wrote in her victim statement. “I enjoy golfing year-round and have not been able to do that because of my severe headaches and dizziness.”

Ken Briggs, chair of the department of physical education school and public health, and Chrismer’s boss, declined to comment.

Chrismer said she regularly meets with a psychiatrist, as encouraged by the hospital, to help her recuperate.

Despite the assault happening on Central grounds, the Lovelands said Yancy has still been allowed on campus, which, according to Chrismer’s victim statement, has caused her severe stress and emotional harm.

As a result, Chrismer sought a

restraining order to keep Yancy away from herself and the Central campus, where Chrismer believes he is likely to attack again, as she wrote in her restraining order request.

On Jan. 21, 2015, Lower Kittitas County District Court granted a protective order.

The order restrains Yancy from being within 500 feet of Chrismer’s residence and 100 feet of Chrismer herself. It also bars him access to Nicholson and the parking lot immediately south for an entire year.

Chrismer reports she is also suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and memory issues. She is also concerned about Yancy’s state of mental health and his ability to be a responsible citizen.

“I believe it is not reasonable for Mr. Yancy to continue to be al-

Bryan’s Song Coach with Autism wins over football team

BY DILLON SAND
Staff Reporter

The goal of a football coach is not only to teach a player how to play football, but also to teach the team life lessons that they will be able to use many years after their playing days are over. That’s exactly what assistant football coach Bryan Yancy specializes in. Since joining the team in 2007, Yancy has been teaching players these life lessons without realizing it. Yancy is at practice everyday helping the other coaches set up drills, talking with players, and helping clean up after practice. Yancy also helps out on game days, retrieving kick off tee and doing anything that is asked of him, always with a smile on his face. If you talk to him now, Yancy will tell you how much he loves

who traveled regularly for games and tournaments around the state, and Yancy would travel with his brother. “Baseball” was one of Yancy’s first words. As he grew older and was in a healthy living situation, Yancy began to come out of his shell and develop basic communication skills. He could tell you basic things such as he was hungry, or wanted to play, but was unable to make full sentences. Flash-forward to today and he is willing to talk to you about anything, especially if it involves football. Yancy’s first job in sports was helping out with the Ellensburg High School boys’ basketball team, a suggestion made by Eric Davis, Yancy’s case manager and former EHS athletic director, who was the boys’ head coach at the time. Being able to talk with the



THE OBSERVER

BRYAN’S SONG This story ran on Nov. 13, the day of the assault.

lowed to injure innocent citizens and then not be required to get help to stop this type of behavior,” Chrismer wrote in the victim impact statement.

Chrismer declined to be interviewed at length for this story.

Nov. 13, 2014
Yancy attacks Chrismer in the Nicholson Pavilion field house

No light in campus attack

By Chace Davy, News Editor
And Jonathan Glover, Assistant Scene Editor

1988
Bryan Yancy is born

is a sixteen-year-old developmentally disabled male, born in Palo Alto, California, December 24, 1988. His parents are Sandra Hays and Tim Yancy. He has had a couple of other children. I was raised in my birth mother's custody and care. According to his records and resided with them for five months. They informed state social workers they were taking him to the Loveland's, who agreed to take him. The Loveland's assumed guardianship of him. He is a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic. He is violent. The father disappeared for a time. DCSF Personnel paid his bus to his home. He is visited him, usually separately, but the mother is not.

1999-2004
Yancy is moved to schools across the state due to violent 'meltdowns'

School enrollment history

2002: Ingraham High School
-Assaulted a principal and was expelled

2004: Ellensburg High School
-Assaulted a female classmate and a principal. Yancy was charged with assault but the charges were later dropped.

2006: Central Washington University

SOURCES: MICHAEL COMTE, DALE AND CYNTHIA LOVELAND

October 2014
Yancy starts to develop anxiety around Joy Chrismer



Lareta "Joy" Chrismer

Nicholson assault one of many for Yancy

Michael Comte, clinical social worker, wrote an evaluation that lays out a history of school problems and violence. Bryan Yancy was born Dec. 24, 1988 in Palo Alto, Calif. His birth father has been described as a "homeless drug addict" and his birth mother as a "paranoid schizophrenic," according to Comte's competency evaluation.

While residing with his birth mother, Yancy was kept in a box under a table, the report said. At the age of 5, Yancy was adopted and placed under the legal guardianship of Dale and Cynthia Loveland. Soon after they became convinced he was autistic. Yancy was formally diagnosed at the age of 6. Yancy can recite all the capitals of countries in the world, according to Comte's evaluation, yet he can't do simple tasks such as tie his shoes. Yancy has an I.Q. score of 55. Before being placed in the Lovelands' custody, Yancy was unable to walk upright, "was not toilet trained and drank water from a dog dish," Comte's report said. Following placement with the Lovelands, Yancy quickly reached developmental milestones and was promptly enrolled in the Ellensburg school system, Comte wrote.

When Yancy was in the fifth grade, Cynthia Loveland became frustrated with what she said was Yancy's teacher's lack of understanding of autism, according to Comte. She decided to move Yancy to junior high. "District personnel thought the move might be positive, because he would be with an older group of students and may mimic more mature behavior," Comte wrote in his evaluation. Cynthia Loveland claimed Yancy's middle school teachers were not sufficiently meeting his needs. She petitioned for a para-educator, but conflict arose when "Bryan referred to his aide as his teacher, which angered the teacher." After the incident, Cynthia and Yancy separated from Dale and moved with Yancy to Seattle, where he was enrolled in McClure Middle School. Following graduation from middle school, Yancy was enrolled in a program for autistic students at Garfield High School. However, the teacher quit before the school year began. A series of substitutes proved to be unable to fulfill Yancy's educational needs, Cynthia Loveland said. Cynthia then moved Yancy to Ingraham High School in north Seattle, where she claimed there was "supervisory neglect." "On one occasion, she discovered him wandering outside the building. On another occasion, he complained to his mother he choked on an apple and there was no one to assist him," Comte reported. Yancy's first incident of violence occurred when he attacked the Ingraham High School principal, whom Yancy had reportedly developed a "fixation" with. Yancy was then expelled. Cynthia returned Yancy to Ellensburg and enrolled him in Ellensburg High School (EHS). "Despite intermittent explosiveness and disruptive behavior, [Cynthia] said his adjustment was generally positive," Comte reported. "She said she is upset by the fact there is constant emphasis on 'three bad days and not the 124 successful days [of school].'" The second violent incident occurred when Yancy developed another fixation, this time with a female student. "He was extremely assaultive with her, and was observed 'kicking her in the face and head.'" She was examined at the hospital. Fortunately, she was not severely injured," Comte reported. Yancy was suspended for 10 days. Following this incident, Cynthia and the case manager with the Division of Developmental Disabilities made requests for a case aide to be assigned to Yancy. "[Cynthia] said she was told 'wait until there's another incident' and school personnel would then consider the need for one-on-one supervision," Comte reported. Yancy was involved in another incident on March 1, 2005, which he describes as the "geography brawl," where he assaulted a vice principal and teacher. "While in the classroom, he allegedly abruptly tipped over a table and attacked one of the [teachers]," Comte reported. "Witnesses indicated threats to assault and actual assaultive behavior seemed at times to occur without antecedents or provocation." Yancy was expelled from EHS. The court ordered a competency evaluation of Yancy in which Comte deemed him legally incompetent, and thus unable to stand trial. No charges were ever brought against Yancy. "In my opinion Bryan does not satisfy the legal competency standard and cannot assist counsel in his defense. I am requesting the court allow Bryan to remain outside the courtroom," Comte concluded. "In my opinion, he could not cope with an appearance before the court. His presence could very well result in a 'meltdown,' extreme agitation, and possibly aggression. Despite behavior problems he has experienced, [Yancy's] long term prognosis is positive."

CWU allows attacker on campus

According to Central's Student Conduct Code, Bryan Yancy could be in violation of at least three parts of the student code of conduct. Violations for such conduct, according to Richard DeShields, associate dean of students, vary on a case-by-case basis. It could be as simple as a suspension, and as severe as expulsion from the university. University officials work with police officers and reports from the city or county to make an informed decision. They also assign a case worker, schedule a hearing with the student and conduct an independent investigation of the matter before making a decision. DeShields refused to discuss any particulars regarding Yancy's case. According to his parents,

Yancy is currently serving a suspension on a quarter-by-quarter basis, and has regular weekly meetings with DeShields to track his progress. He has the possibility of having his suspension reduced. Cases of this magnitude usually result in a year suspension, or longer, DeShields said. During his suspension, Yancy is allowed inside Black Hall to use the computer lab and the SURC at noon for lunch, Cynthia Loveland said. The protective order issued by the Kittitas County District Court bars Yancy from being within 100 feet of Joy Chrismer. The order also bars him from Nicholson and the parking lot directly south. DeShields said Central must follow all legal directives handed

down by the courts. "A court order may say that a student can't be within 100 feet of the campus," DeShields said. "In many instances, court orders do not go that far, and they'll specifically say, within a certain amount of feet of an individual, so at that point there really is nothing in the state that allows them to not have access to certain resources." DeShields said as far as previous incidents go, any violation while registered as a student stays on that student's record, and could compound if further violations were recorded. "If a situation happens somewhere else, prior to a student being a student or being enrolled, or even being associated with the university, the university doesn't necessarily have access to that information," DeShields said. "We

can't make decisions on things we don't have." DeShields said he thinks that Central needs to take a look at its policy and ensure that students are not only safe, but that everyone's rights are considered equally. "I do think that the university should try to do everything possible to keep communities safe," DeShields said. Despite Chrismer and others believing Yancy is a threat to the students and staff at Central, DeShields said this incident is isolated and the actions taken are the best for all parties involved. Dale and Cynthia Loveland, and their attorney, believe Yancy isn't a threat to society. "I'd go to jail with him if I thought it would cure him," Dale Loveland said. "But it won't."

Conference hosts painting-performer



TONY SHEPPARD

ICONIC Garibaldi painting on stage at a 2010 event in Sacramento.

BY MORGAN GREEN
Staff Reporter

David Garibaldi's performances resemble a rock concert more than a painting session.

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) booked Garibaldi as the keynote speaker for the "Be-U-nique" Leadership Conference.

The conference, hosted in the SURC Ballroom, is focused on teaching students how their uniqueness can help them become better leaders.

"He has his canvas up, and while he paints, it is kind of this choreographed dance," Tabitha Hardy, student programmer at the CLCE said. "While he moves around, he jumps up and makes swipes on the canvas with paint."

According to Hardy, Garibaldi is a great representation for the conference theme.

Garibaldi, a high school dropout, grew up in Los Angeles, a part of his past that he feels shaped who he is today.

"It was so instrumental in [who] I became," Garibaldi said. "I went to an amazing high school that had an art program and it changed me."

Garibaldi started out with graffiti and a small amount of

painting, but truly found inspiration after he saw the work of Denny Dent, another famed performance artist.

"A friend of mine owned a couple of his paintings and he was like 'have you heard of this Denny Dent?'" Garibaldi said.

Garibaldi felt inspired by Dent's process and his style helped Garibaldi shape his own.

Dent is notable for painting with multiple brushes in each hand while loud rock and roll plays in the background, dancing with his painting movements.

"Early on, he definitely inspired the base of the techniques," Garibaldi said.

Similar to Dent, Garibaldi paints with both of his hands, a feature that is not common among painters.

Often during a performance, Garibaldi will forgo the brushes and paint with his hands.

"If I could use my hands all of the time, I would, but there is just certain things that certain brushes can achieve that I can't with my hands," Garibaldi said.

Garibaldi breaks the painter's mold by using black canvas instead of white.

"The style that I paint is that I am basically filling in the negative space," Garibaldi said. "Normal-

ly when you have a white canvas you are just doing the shadows and adding the shadows, for me - I leave the shadows behind."

Garibaldi also feels that the black canvas adds another dimension to his paintings.

"I love how the black stands out so much in the portraits and the face," Garibaldi said.

Garibaldi's work primarily focuses on famous and inspirational people.

"Painting Einstein or Mickey Mouse, or even Steve Jobs; people who are iconic around the world to many different cultures and many different economic backgrounds," Garibaldi said.

Garibaldi said he tries to study who they are and what they are known for, trying to bring those elements to life.

According to Garibaldi, a lot of preparation is involved before some performances.

Garibaldi said his goal for performances is to inspire people.

"It is more than just art; I want it to be inspirational as well," Garibaldi said. "I want to inspire people to do whatever it is that inspires them, whether it is art, business, charitable works. I want to inspire people to do all things."

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of **RELIGION**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of **SPEECH**, or of the **PRESS**; or the right of the people peaceably to **ASSEMBLE**, and to **PETITION** the Government for a redress of grievances.

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**NEW ARRIVALS
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Fort Vine performs in SURC pit

BY NICK OLIVER
Staff Reporter

Alumna Nyna Nelson returns to Central to perform with band member Trevor Tunison from their indie-rock band Fort Vine.

Nelson and Tunison will perform without two members of the band, Luke Markham and Kenny Johnson.

Tunison was initially exposed to art through his family.

“My father was a sculptor, that’s how he raised our family,” Tunison said. “My mother is also a singer, a painter and an artist as well.”

After college, Tunison moved to New York City in the fall of 2010 to pursue a music career, where he roomed with eventual band member, Nelson.

Nelson had graduated from Central in 2011 with a musical theatre performance degree. She even went on tour with the Central theatre department in Europe.

“I didn’t even get to walk at graduation,” Nelson said. “I was in Europe on tour doing a musical theatre review show.”

Shortly after graduating, Nelson moved to New York with hopes of being on Broadway.

After moving to New York,

Fort Vine Performance

When: Feb. 26 @12 p.m.

Where: SURC Pit

Nelson met Trevor Tunison’s brother, Westley Tunison, while auditioning for a musical. Nelson needed a place to live and Westley Tunison offered her a room.

“I was like ‘Hi, I’m Nyna and I need a place to live,’ and he was like ‘Hi I’m Westley come live with me,’” Nelson said.

Shortly after Nelson moved in with the Tunison brothers, Nelson and Trevor Tunison discovered they had a knack for not only writing music together, but also for building forts.

“Trevor would play music in his room all the time and I would poke my head in and say ‘oh that sounds nice,’” Nelson said. “Then one day he was like hey I’m building a fort.”

Trevor Tunison found a collapsed tree by the Hudson River, where the public isn’t necessarily supposed to be.

“I was missing the country, because I grew up in Upstate New York and I was basically surrounded by woods,” Tunison



COURTESY OF FORT VINE

NAMESAKE The group is named after a fort they made together.

said. “So when I first moved to the city I would escape to this small spot of woods in Manhattan.”

Trevor Tunison realized that this fallen tree could be hollowed out and made into a fort, so he bought a hack saw from the hardware store. Shortly after, Trevor Tunison and Nelson began to make a fort.

That tree would become the fort which would ultimately in-

spire the band’s name: Fort Vine.

Fort Vine’s debut album, “One In The Same” was released this year and the album was fully funded by Fort Vine’s fans.

Trevor said “We knew it was going to cost a lot to do our album the way we wanted to, and to have it professionally mixed and mastered. So we decided to run a Kickstarter campaign.”

Family, friends and fans went to Kickstarter.com to donate

to the cause and as a result, the band raised over three thousand dollars. It was enough to have the album professionally mixed and recorded in Brooklyn, and even to pay for the packaging of the album.

“We were very humbled by the amount of support people showed us through that Kickstarter campaign,” Nelson said.

The indie-rock album has a wide range in terms of musical aesthetic; some songs are almost free form poetry while other songs have a good rock sense to them.

“I would really just describe our sound as indie-rock. Our sound varies from song to song,” Trevor Tunison said. “Lately we have been playing a lot of songs that have a folk-ish vibe to them, and then we play songs that have a straight soulful feel to them.”

In the three years that they have been playing together, Nelson and Trevor Tunison said that their sound has changed a lot and that they like to experiment.

Last May, they did a video series on YouTube called “A Song a Day in the Month of May” in which they wrote and recorded a new song for every day in the month of May; something they hope to do each year.

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Stroud making historic strides

Strong upbringing molded Central forward into humble greatness

BY JEFFREY MACMILLAN
Staff Reporter

Nicholson Pavilion crowds have had a special opportunity to witness what soon could be a historic season for the Central men's basketball team and their 6 foot 7-inch forward and shot-blocking specialist, junior forward Joseph Stroud.

Stroud, who is within reach of Central's single season shot-block record, has been an intimidating presence to opposing teams.

Stroud has stacked up shot block after shot block on his way to being the nation's seventh ranked shot blocker, both in total blocks, (65) and blocks per game (2.9).

Stroud's mother, Sherry Stroud, points out that the individual awards do not mean as much to him as the success of his team.

"Joe has been such a humble kid his whole life," Sherry Stroud said. "After games growing up I would tell him how he had a great game, and he would just tell me 'No, Mom. The team had a great game.' Joe never wants the spotlight on him he wants to make sure his team gets attention."

Basketball has played a key role in Stroud's life, presenting opportunities as well as presenting him with an avenue to keep him out of trouble growing up.

"Basketball was everything to me growing up," Stroud said. "Basketball kept me out of trouble. When there was nothing to do in the house, we would just go out and play basketball. Every Sunday that's just what we did, ball was life."

Sherry agrees somewhat with Stroud's assessment of growing up but has a different view on the time.

"Ball wasn't completely life," Sherry Stroud said. "Because there was school work that had to be done, but after school work was finished then, yes, ball was a big part of his life."

Sherry also attributes much of who Joseph is as a person to his upbringing with a strong family support group and the church.

She also points out that while Stroud is humble and quiet, he is also incredibly funny.

"It was a team effort raising Joe," Sherry said. "He's been a good and humble kid, but there has been some funny moments with Joe because he's quiet. He'll do these funny things that are totally out of character. One night we were sitting in a church service and Joe had decided he wanted to go home, so to

get my attention he started saying 'Mom-my, Mama, Mom,' like the baby on Family Guy. Every-

one around us was just cracking up because you never expect that because Joe is so quiet."

Joseph did not always want to leave church early, because church was important to him. Not only was Stroud's grandfather the pastor of a church, but Joseph was a drummer for the church growing up.

"Joseph was the church drummer," Sherry said. "Joseph's uncle Shannon taught Joe's brother, and Joe's brother taught Joe. They played the drums until his brother went off to college and then Joe, being the humble guy that he is, taught other kids at the church to play the drums."

Joseph attributes so much of who he is to the church group around him.

"The church and my family have been such an amazing support system," Stroud said. "Every Sunday we went to church at least once or twice. After we would go to family gatherings, dinners, parties; church was a big role in my life and who I am."

Basketball has also played a role in Joseph's life, as coaches have helped to mentor and influence him along his path. Stroud played high school basketball at Rainer Beach under Coach Mike Bethea for three years.

Coach Dawson saw a lot of potential for Joseph and expected big things from the quiet young man.

"Joe was raised well and has always shown great character," Dawson said. "Yes he had God given talent, but it's his character that makes a great teammate. He was an integral part of getting us turned back around with a young team of freshmen, he never had an ego and was a l w a y s

humble and His humility is even better than his ability."

After a season at Central Arizona College, Joseph decided to return to play basketball closer to home at Highline Community College.

There, Stroud was coached by Che Dawson, who helped Joseph develop more than just his

shot blocking.

"Coach Dawson played a big role in my maturity," Stroud said. "Coach was always in my ear and because Coach Dawson is a lawyer, you just know that you'll never be able to win an argument against him. So all I could do was just listen, and I started to hear him and all his good advice and he really pushed me to work harder in and outside of practice; and more importantly, he pushed me in the classroom and showed me how valuable a college education is, and not to just worry about basketball."

After his time at Highline, Joseph decided that, the best fit for him in his next step in life was to come to Central.

"I really came to Central because of the feeling I got when I was here and how close it was to home. I just felt comfortable here," Stroud said.

As Stroud nears the single season shot block record, he doesn't let the record or the pressure affect him or his play on the floor.

"It's hard to not think about the pressure," Stroud said. "But I do my best with it, because when I come into the games all I am thinking about is helping my teammates, and that's the best thing when dealing with the pressure. I'm doing it with my teammates, my friends, my brothers out there, and as long as I know that then I'm okay because I'm not chasing this record alone."

DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER





DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

PRAYER Forward Julian Vaughn lifts up a floater against Alaska Fairbanks on senior night at Nicholson Pavilion. Central is tied for second place in the GNAC with SPU.

Central reaching for second

BY MAXWELL MONSON
Staff Reporter

The Central men’s basketball team looks to deliver the Seattle Pacific University Falcons (SPU) (19-7 overall, 11-5 GNAC) a late season loss and take over second place in the GNAC.

The Wildcats just came off two wins at home versus the Alaska schools, and improved their record to (16-7 overall, 11-5 GNAC).

Central comes into the contest at third place in the GNAC, right behind SPU, which owns the tie breaker because of a better overall record.

If Central can come away with a win on the road, the team will be in the driver’s seat for second place in the GNAC playoffs.

The GNAC playoffs give the top two teams first round byes, while the next four play games.

Extra rest and fewer games instead of three would be a big benefit for Central.

Assistant coach Drew Harris knows how important that second seed is to his team’s chances.

“For the last few years towards the end of the season we were never this far up and to have a top two finish would be something big for us,” Harris said. “It would be huge to get the win Thursday and help secure that top two seed going into the playoffs and get that bye.”

SPU has a dominant defense and has relied on it for most of the season. They are leading the GNAC in scoring defense.

The Falcons are holding opposing teams to an average of 64.9 points per game.

SPU ranks first in the GNAC in scoring margin at +15.3. It has lit up the scoreboard, putting up more than 100 points three times



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

YOUR ROYAL AIRNESS Guard Gary Jacobs attacks the basket for a two-hand slam against Alaska.

this season.

The Falcons rely on senior center Cory Hutsen for a lot of that scoring. Hutsen is averaging 16 points per game and 4.3 rebounds per game.

Along with Hutsen, SPU has junior forward Mitch Penner. Penner is averaging 13.5 points per game and 5.5 rebounds per game.

“We know what they want to do,” Harris said “For the last few years, since Coach Looney has been there, they play that style of defense where they really pack it in and make you work for your points. We want to do a good job not settling for bad shots.”

The Wildcats rank first in field

goal percentage defense holding teams to a meager 42.6 percent and third in three-point percentage defense, holding teams to 35.1 percent.

Joseph Stroud is partly to thank for an improved defense this season.

Stroud is second in the GNAC and seventh in the nation in blocks, averaging 2.8 blocks per game.

He also does his part on the offensive side, putting up 11.6 points per game. Despite not taking many shots, Stroud has been exceptional.

He does not miss many shots and stats prove it. He ranks first in the GNAC in field goal per-

centage, shooting a red hot 72.4 percent.

“Picking the rights shots, knowing what I can do with the ball.” Stroud said “Really running the floor and cutting to the basket when my teammates drive. It really leads to layups and that’s mostly what I get, layups, dunks, and free throws.”

Along with Stroud the Wildcats hold one of the biggest scoring threats in the GNAC this season.

Redshirt senior guard Dom Williams has been an absolute beast on the offensive end this year.

Williams ranks second in the GNAC with 19.9 points per

CWU vs SPU
7 p.m. Feb. 26
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game. Williams will hit it from behind the arc all day if he is left unguarded.

He boasts a 45.2 three-point shooting percentage putting him at fifth place in the GNAC. With Stroud blocking shots and Williams knocking down the three ball, this Wildcat team can be very tough to beat.

“Staying aggressive and learning to adjust to the defense.” Williams said “Being a scorer every team will throw different defenses at you so to be a good scorer you need to learn how to adjust. My main thing is try and attack and get my teammates going early.”

After the Wildcats take on the Falcons, they will turn their attention to their final game of the season when they tip-off with Montana State Billings.

The Wildcats hope to get one more win to finish their push for the second place spot in the playoffs and a first round bye.

Stroud has all the faith in the world in the leading scorer for the Wildcats as the season winds down.

“He’s [Williams] been real crucial.” Stroud said “Honestly, if we didn’t have Dom we would really have to work harder. I mean he makes it easy on the offense when we need something we can go to him and depend on him and have the confidence he will make something.”

Doing things the right way

Q and A with Head Softball coach Mallory Holtman-Fletcher

BY SHAIMA SHAMDEEN
Staff Reporter

Q - What do you enjoy doing on your down time when you're not coaching?

A - Playing with my son, I have a three year old.

Q - How did you end up getting the job as head coach?

A - I played here for five years, and I was assistant [coach] for two. I told the old head coach, [Gary], that I wanted his job. He was 72 years old so he was waiting to retire. He said he would retire when I got my graduate degree, so when I graduated he retired, like, two weeks later.

Q - What's a typical work-day like?

A - Come in, check emails, talk to the athletic trainer, [Charity], just to see if everyone's healthy, work on practice plans, recruiting...Every day's a little bit different which is nice. Just making sure everything is running and smooth, checking on the players, making sure classes are going good.

Q - What do you look for when recruiting an athlete?

A - Someone that fits with our team culture and what we're working toward. One thing Gary taught me is that you can have a whole team of all-stars but if they don't get along, you're still not going to win a game. But if you have a team of average players that want to be there for a common cause, you're going to win. That's what we try to build our team on: people that want to work hard and people that have that teammate philosophy.

Q - What do you think you bring differently to coaching than the last coach?

A - Recruiting is different, it's so high-tech now, and you can text your recruits now. Gary was one of my biggest mentors; I think he taught me the base of all my knowledge. It all just evolves as you coach.

Q - How do you sell Central to a recruit you really want?

A - I sell them on family first, which is Central. You walk through these hallways as an athlete and the other coaches know your name, Sammy, the S-I-D, knows who you are and knows your stats, and all of the other athletic trainers know who you are and care about who you are. Ninety-five percent of our players after freshmen year live off campus with one another because they still want to be around

one another at the end of the day, even after they've spent 30 hours of the week together. We sell them on that concept first. For parents, this town is awesome. It's safe; you're close to cities but it's a communal feel and you don't have to worry about your kid. Academically, I think Central offers so much, and I think our success helps sell us. Of any GNAC school, we've been the most successful, if you look at the last five years.

Q - Has there ever been a time in your softball career when you wanted to quit?

A - I think as a player there have been times where there have been difficulties, but I've never wanted to quit. I had five surgeries in five years and those are the times you just want it more. You think about how much it sucks to just sit back and watch. As a coach, there are trying times and there are difficult situations. Those first two years are big learning years. I used to always see Gary at practice and think how much fun it is to go to practice and go to games and then you realize that you're literally in the office seven hours a day doing paperwork. Central is where I went to school and it's where I feel like I belong, so I don't think I've ever got to that point where I was just done with it.

Q - When did you decide that softball was your passion?

A - Probably my sophomore year of high school. I still played all three sports throughout my senior year: softball, volleyball, and basketball, just because I can't sit down, but I knew then that softball was what I wanted to do.

Q - What's been the highlight moment for you as a coach?

A - Each season brings a different highlight. That's one cool thing about coaching, that the players transition every year. My first year coaching was awesome. I remember moments during those games and playoffs that were so much fun to just be around that group of girls. To have your first year of coaching experience and have a team that has two All-Americans set the homerun record in the nation, those are great moments. Even just last year, going to Dixie and beating Humboldt State, send-

ing Humboldt and San Diego home in the same day, and the girls being so pumped they just get back to the hotel and jump into the pool in full uniform. There's stuff like that where you just forget about the winning and losing, but just the experiences that we're having are amazing. Every game is a new highlight. Even in Vegas

last week, we had a couple extra hours as a team and climbed up these giant boulders in Red Rock Canyon. Stuff like that that you don't get to experience all the time. I sometimes feel like I see my players more than I see my three-year-old son, so the fact that you get to share these types of experiences with people you care about is awesome.

Q - During the game against Western Oregon University in 2008, what triggered the thought to assist Western Oregon's Sara Tucholsky in running the bases after she injured her knee?

A - For me, at the time, it was just like, "I know your team can't help you, but I could help you." It seemed like the right thing to do, it wasn't a strategic thing or planned out, it just came out. No one really thought anything of it. At the time, it was mentioned maybe in the seventh paragraph of the senior day column, no one really talked about it or thought about it. Another thing that Gary taught us is to just be selfless, and my parents taught me to just do the right thing and win gracefully and lose gracefully, too. We try to really stress being selfless and I think that's really helped players get closer and making it more about somebody else doing something right than about yourself doing something wrong.

Q - Can you describe the moment you first found out you were going to the ESPYs?

A - I was in Jerrol's bookstore buying books; I think I was buying notebooks or something. I got a phone call and they were like, "Oh yeah, you got nominated for an ESPY," and I was like, "What the heck are people talk-

ing about?" It was really weird. It's not something that I thought about. Everything kind of snowballed after that. I think I was in shock for a while. Honestly, that whole summer after it happened was a blur because it all happened so quickly. It was great publicity for the school and for our program and for softball and sportsmanship in general. At that time there was so much bad stuff in athletics going on. It's still mind-blowing to me that I walk in my living room and see an ESPY. It's weird.

Q - What was it like getting to be on stage with Justin Timberlake?

A - It was fun. We got to go early and run through practice with them and practice picking him up. It was hilarious. He was really nice. It was all just super surreal. That whole experience just getting to sit in the front row and sitting in front of Will Ferrell instead of seeing him from afar, it was all just weird. I look back at pictures and still have to be like, oh my gosh.

Q - What's the greatest piece of advice that you've been given?

A - My parents have this plaque in their house...it says "because nice matters." My mom would always be on me about being nice and losing gracefully. Even if I didn't do something wrong it was just something she, my dad and all my coaches instilled in me. I wanted to be that player that when I played, at the end of the day, the other teammates didn't hate me and the other players on other teams didn't think I was stuck-up. I wanted to be someone that people respected. Just being nice is something that really matters; I'm a big believer in karma.

Q - What do you want your legacy to be?

A - I just want this program to have a legacy of success. What Gary built and handed to me was the tipping point, we're on the verge of having something great here. I want to take that and build something that is not just on the verge but is great. I want to be a powerhouse in our conference. I want to be a powerhouse in the nation, and I want it to be that if I left tomorrow, that wouldn't stop. As a coach, I don't want it to be about me. I want to be in the shadow to these players. If I could build All-Americans all day and leave and still have it going, I'm completely fine with that.

Q - Complete this sentence: "My coaching career has been successful if..."

A - If it stuck to who I was as a person.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CWU ATHLETICS

Amazing Race comes to town

Popular television show is recreated for Central students and provides leadership challenges

BY ALEXA OLAGUE
Staff Reporter

The well-known reality game show, The Amazing Race, will be recreated in Ellensburg in early March, hosted by the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE).

Throughout the race, teams of two will clash in strenuous challenges, dash through obstacles and test their knowledge with tough trivia.

Philip Kohl, senior, ITAM major, is the program leader for this year's event.

"The purpose of this program is to challenge students to be leaders," Kohl said. "While also, in the case of the Amazing Race, learn where local businesses are that would benefit students."

The race gives Central students an opportunity to explore Ellensburg in a new way and discover the hidden gems the town offers.

The teams will also learn how to work with one another and build leadership skills through the numerous challenges.

"To be eligible to be a participant, you need to be a Central student," Kohl said. "To win first or second place prize, you need to attend classes spring quarter. We are expecting 25 teams of two this year."

Two spring quarter tuition waivers are up for grabs for the first and second place finishing teams.

The first team to complete the race with the most points will receive a \$500 tuition waiver and the second team a \$250 waiver.

Senior elementary education major, Sara Jane Kay is a program leader at the CLCE and is coordinating the event with Kohl.

Kay participated in the event last year by assisting in preparations for the race and enjoyed it so much she decided to join the coordinating team this year.

Kay advises participants to be prepared to test their knowledge of Ellensburg.

"Teams will receive clues to get from one pit stop to the next, but not just any clues," Kay said. "These are more of a riddle that must be answered to get to the next pit stop."

Not only will this event push the limits of Central students physically, but the race will also challenge participants mentally.

Community members from throughout the Ellensburg community are also encouraged to get involved with the race.

Volunteers can host a pit stop in the race that will provide the participants with hints and clues to their next challenge.


"I am excited about how much the races and volunteers will learn from this event," Kay said. "There is so much that goes in to this event,

The Amazing Race

Event takes place

on

March 6 @ 4 p.m.



but it will all be worth it the day of when I see how pumped the teams will be!"

Planning the Amazing Race takes longer than most may think.

Kay said her co-workers have been extremely helpful throughout the planning process.

"Philip and I have been planning the Amazing Race since December," Kay said. "We have been testing out each challenge to make sure it is perfect for the pit stops."

Kay adds that coming up with the mental and physical challenges is the most amusing part of preparing the event.

The CLCE will present the event on March 6. There is a mandatory meeting for all volunteers from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. before the race.

The CLCE asks for all participants to arrive at the SURC Ballroom at 3 p.m. The race will begin at 4 p.m.

Smog clearing on NFL in LA

BY SPENCER HANSEN
Assistant Sports Editor

For 20 years, America's second largest city, Los Angeles, has been without a professional football franchise. Both the Rams, who now reside in St. Louis, and the Raiders, who are back in Oakland, have had stints in LA.

The Rams played in LA from 1946-1994 in the LA Coliseum, but from 1980-1994 they moved to Anaheim and played at Anaheim Stadium.

During almost 50 years in LA, the Rams enjoyed four conference titles, 11 division titles and 21 playoff appearances.

The Rams moved due to stadium concerns and because St. Louis lost the Cardinals in 1988 and wanted another team.

NFL commissioner at the time, Paul Tagliabue, told the LA Times that putting a National Football Conference (NFC) team back in Los Angeles was a priority (Raiders are American Football Conference).

The Raiders were founded in Oakland as part of the American Football League (AFL) and played there from 1960-1981. In 1982, Al Davis moved the team to LA where they would remain until 1994 before moving back to Oakland.

The LA Raiders were the epitome of the rise of the hip-hop and rap culture that began in the 1980s and continued through the early 1990s in southern California.

Rap artists Dr. Dre and NWA were unofficial ringleaders of a Raiders' fan base that grew exponentially during that period.

The Raiders marketing team at the time ushered in this merchandise-hungry fandom. The team sold every type of apparel and generated jaw-dropping profits.

Why should LA have a football team? Let's begin with the culture of football in California. The state of California currently has the most players in the NFL of any state.

Players, coaches and fans live for football; Pop Warner, high school, college, professional, it doesn't matter. Not only that, seven Super Bowls have been hosted in LA.

The people of southern California have shown time and time again that they will support their teams. USC and UCLA, two historic football programs.

Both schools regularly contend for conference and national titles as well as putting several players in the NFL every year.

The Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles Lakers regularly sellout and have 22 championships combined. Although LA fans notoriously show up late, they have unwavering passion and love for their teams.

The NFL, as a business, would be smart to put a team back in LA. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said many times how the NFL is all about "protecting the shield" and growing the brand.

By protecting the shield, he means keeping the NFL, as a league, in a positive light to the public eye and having a unified body of personnel around the league who have the same vision.

Not only would the NFL turn a profit due to the size of the LA market, but a new stadium and merchandise would draw in a diverse population of fans. It would also create 20,000-30,000 jobs over a 36-month building period, according to The Daily Beast.

The city of Los Angeles voted to have a stadium built in downtown LA, next to the Staples Center, home to the Lakers and the Clippers.

The stadium would seat 76,000, but some question that building the stadium without a tenant would be risky.

Football will be back in LA within the next five years. As to which team it will be, that's an intriguing unknown.

My guess would be the St. Louis Rams because the Raiders have renewed their lease in Oakland and the Rams aren't a hot commodity in St. Louis. Also, last week the Raiders and Chargers made a joint announcement to try to build a shared stadium in Carson, Calif.

St. Louis has always been a baseball town. More fans attended game five of the World Series in St. Louis in 2013 than Monday Night Football versus the Seahawks.

Although I'm not a fan of LA based teams, it feels like a piece of the NFL is missing.

It would be like taking the Vatican out of Rome. One could argue California, especially LA, is the mecca of football.

History of LA

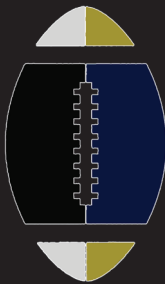
Football

Los Angeles Rams:

1946-1994

Los Angeles Raiders:

1982-1994



Wildcats aiming for tourney

BY TYLER BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

The Central women's basketball team (11-13 overall, 6-10 GNAC) is traveling to Monmouth, Oregon this weekend to face off against the Western Oregon Wolves.

The Wildcats fell from their fifth place position in conference standings, which rewards the top six teams with a playoff berth, following their 76-71 home loss to Northwest Nazarene.

The loss was simply due to a difference in field goal percentages. The Crusaders outshot the Wildcats 51 percent to 41.2 percent.

Junior forward, Jasmine Parker, broke a CWU record after becoming the Wildcats all-time leader in blocked shots with 154 total blocks after the five rejections against the Crusaders.

"It was pretty cool to break the record," Parker said. "I had no idea that I was even close until Facebook announced it, but its definitely an accomplishment. I thank God, my team, coaches, friends and family for the support and for helping me be able to accomplish such a great thing."

The Wildcats are looking to

break their current 5 game losing streak this weekend against Western Oregon and Saint Martins for their final two games of the regular season.

Their five-game losing streak is misleading though. Last week against NNU, Courtney Johnson, who scored 19 points in her final home game, made a three point shot with 36.2 seconds left on the clock. This brought the game to a one-possession difference at 74-71. Following that possession, Parker added to her record setting blocks and the Wildcats regained the ball. It was turned over seconds later allowing the Crusaders to maintain their 76-71 win over the Wildcats.

With only two games remaining, this weekend's games against Western Oregon and Saint Martin's are must wins.

This has not damped spirits though; the team is still confident it can make it to the playoffs.

"I'm in the mindset that we have to win these next two games. After that, the tournament is going to go to the team that wants it most," Parker said.

The conference rewards the top six teams with playoff berth, but the standings are irrelevant once we get to the tournament."

Parker said.

The key will be to get ahead and stay ahead. The Crusaders opened the first half making four of their first five shots, giving them an 11-5 lead. The Wildcats came back on several occasions, but the Crusaders managed to keep a lead. The Wildcats were down by 13 with 3:57 left in the half.

The Wildcats aren't worried about the past and are looking forward. With playoffs in their grasp, all they have to do is reach out and take it.

"I expect us to go out and give it our all. We have worked so hard all season to get where we are and for three of us, it's going to be our last two games before we enter into the post season," Parker said. "I think it's important to remember what we want to accomplish while we're here."

With their eyes on the Western Oregon this Thursday, and Saint Martin's this Saturday, the Wildcats are confident they can get the wins they need to make it to the playoffs.

"The past few games have made us set high expectations for ourselves," Parker said. "I know what my team and I can accomplish if we work hard."



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

PICK Guard Melanie Valdez utilizes a screen from a teammate.

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on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter with the hashtag **#picturefreedom**.

Win

a **\$1,000 scholarship** if your entry is selected as one of the top 25.

During the week of **Sunday, February 22 through Saturday, February 28**, post your photograph, artwork, or visual message using hashtag **#picturefreedom**. You'll be entered to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship. Full rules are available at 1forall.us.